

Non-Motorized Trail Recreation in Idaho

SUMMIT - February 11, 2016: Boise, Idaho

Program History

Idaho's Non-Motorized Trails Program was established in 1974 by the adoption of Idaho Code 67-4233. It established a Trails Coordinator within the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR), to advise the board and other agencies and entities on matters relating to the system, including the designation and establishment of trails.

Idaho Code 67-4234 defines the duties of the Trails Coordinator as follows: The coordinator shall advise the board on the development of the system. Trails within the system shall be designated as one (1) or more of the following: hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, snow traveling, or other non-motorized travel. (2) The coordinator, in advising the board, shall be guided by the following principles: (a) emphasis shall be placed on routes located on public lands, but not to the exclusion of private lands; (b) effort shall be made to maximize the accessibility of trails to potential users; (c) there shall be utilization of public meetings to secure citizen advice; and (d) effort shall be made to develop trails which will harmonize with other state goals, education and historical preservation. (3) The coordinator shall advise the board on necessary legislation to further the development of the system.

Access

Idaho has over 10,000 miles of non-motorized trails. Approximately two-thirds of Idaho land is managed by the US Forest Service and Federal Bureau of Management.



A Legislative Chronology

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1974 – Idaho Code 67-4233 is established.

1995 – HB 186 proposed a \$10 mountain bike user fee (failed)

1996 – Second attempt for \$10 mountain bike user fee (failed)

1998 – SB 1400 proposed \$5.50-\$21.50 horse trailer fee (failed)

1999 – Second attempt for horse trailer fee (failed)

2010 – Vanity mountain bike license plate created, \$22 annually (passed)**

2010 - Third attempt for horse trailer fee (failed)

***The Idaho Mountain Bike Plate generates approximately \$15,000 annually.*

U.S.D.A Forest Service National Backlog (FY12, Government Accounting Office Report, June, 2013)

- 158,000 total trail mileage
- Only 25% are considered to meet agency standards
- Backlog of maintenance needs estimated at \$314 million

Idaho's Non-Motorized Trails Program Budget

The annual budget for Idaho's Non-Motorized Trails Program is derived in majority from funds received annually through allocations of the state's General Fund. A portion of the Idaho Mountain Bike Plate also funds the efforts of the program. The remaining (approximately 50%) Mountain Bike Plate Funds are disseminated through a competitive grant process.

Questions to Consider:

1. How important is non-motorized trail recreation in Idaho?
2. Are there issues or concerns pertaining to non-motorized trail recreation in Idaho?
3. Is maintenance on non-motorized trails in Idaho an issue?
4. Is education important to non-motorized enthusiasts in Idaho?
5. Do you have ideas or suggestions on how to fund non-motorized trail maintenance in Idaho?
6. Are you familiar with successful funding programs in other states?

Successful Funding Examples

Small Percentage of State Lottery (Colorado)

State Gas Tax Allocation for Use of Roads by Non-Motorized Enthusiasts Headed to Trail (Washington)

Share Your Ideas

Mail: Comment forms are available at the front desk

E-mail: inquiry@idpr.idaho.gov

